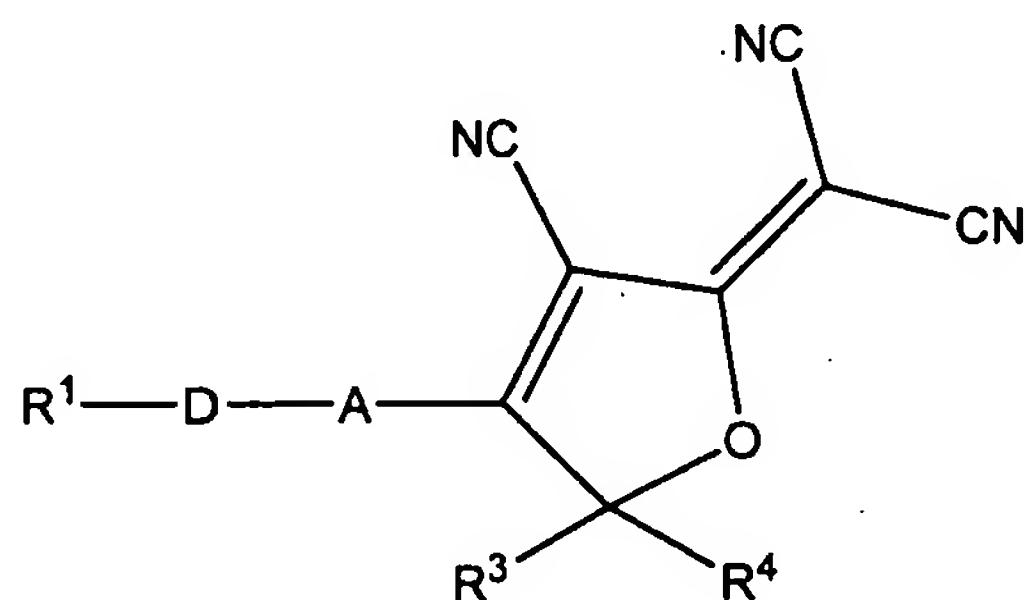


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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims.

- 1-2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a fluorophore compound, the fluorophore compound having the chemical structure:



wherein:

D is a donor group comprising an oxygen atom, wherein said oxygen atom is a donor

atom conjugated with A;

A is a moiety having at least one multiple bond conjugated with the donor group and the 2-dicyanomethylene-3-cyano-2,5-dihydrofuran group;

R¹ is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or hydrogen;

R³ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;

R⁴ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;

and

the fluorophore compound is not DCDHF-6 (2-[3-Cyano-4-(4-dihexylamino-phenyl)-5,5-dimethyl-5H-furan-2-ylidene]-malononitrile; where A is a benzene ring, D is dihexylamine, R³ is methyl, and R⁴ is methyl).